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Letter dated 25 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 April 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the acts of armed aggression being undertaken by the Kuwaiti authorities against vessels in Iraq's territorial waters, and Iraq's reaffirmation of its right to respond appropriately to such acts of aggression in future.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 22 March 2000, Kuwaiti patrol boats, accompanied by a helicopter, entered Iraqi territorial waters, intercepted two ships that were under way near the seaward entrance to the Khawr Abdullah, between buoys 7 and 9, and escorted them into Kuwaiti waters. One of these ships, the *Alwan*, was of Panamanian registry and carried a crew of 18, while the other, the *Umm al-Banin*, was of Honduran registry and carried a crew of 12.

Kuwaiti patrol boats also entered Iraq's territorial waters on 23 March 2000, when they intercepted a ship, the *Al-Rahman*, which was steaming seaward between buoys 7 and 9, inside Iraq's territorial waters, 25 kilometres north-west of Mina al-Bakr and seven kilometres from the coast of Iraq, and compelled it to head towards Kuwaiti waters. The ship in question was of Belizean registry and carried a crew of 18.

These actions by the Kuwaiti authorities, entering Iraq's territorial waters and forcibly intercepting ships in those waters, constitute a flagrant violation of the sanctity of Iraq's territorial waters and an act of armed aggression against its sovereignty. In protesting against these acts of aggression, we request that you intervene with the authorities in question with a view to bringing a halt to their incursions into Iraq's territorial waters in future. In the event of further such incursions, we reserve the right to respond appropriately.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq